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FOOTER REGIS URBAN DISTRICT

1941

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE STATE

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF

FOOTER REGIS

BY

P. MICHAEL AYER

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TOWN HALL.

BOGNOR REGIS.

July, 1942.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Following instructions from the Ministry of Health, a short Interim Report has been prepared for the year 1941, but has been delayed, as in previous years because of the necessity to await receipt of the vital statistics from the Registrar General's Office.

There is nothing outstanding on which a special report should be made to you, but all the routine work of the Department has been maintained in spite of the enormous amount of Air Raid Precautions duties, duties in connection with the Evacuation Scheme, and the general increase of Public Health work in consequence of the present emergency.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

There has been an increase in the birth rate, but this is rather negatived by an increase in the death rate. Both are of little significance in view of the fact that the Registrar General's estimate of resident population has been decreased to 21,260. This has made comparison with last year's rates per thousand, somewhat difficult.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

An exceptionally high standard of health has been maintained in the area. This is very satisfactory considering the movement of population in the town, including evacuees and military.

It will be noted that there is a very large decrease in the serious forms of infectious disease, such as diphtheria and cerebro-spinal fever. Cases of measles amongst residents dropped considerably, but there was an increase in cases amongst evacuees.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

It will be noted from the records of immunisation carried out, that a most excellent standard has been reached. It is estimated that seventy eight per cent of children in Bognor Regis between the ages of 5 and 15, and forty nine per cent of children up to 5 years of age, have been protected.

It will be seen from the schedule of cases of infectious disease, that there were only two persons who contracted diphtheria during the year, and our records show that not a single child who has been immunised, has contracted the disease.

MILK.

It is considered that there should be no abatement whatever of the vigilance of your Health Officers with regard to milk and other food supplies, during the present emergency, and a large amount of sampling and inspection has been carried out.

P.T.O.

HOUSING

I would draw your attention to the excellent work carried out by Mr. Cullon, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the Additional Sanitary Inspector, in the many branches of their duties in connection with housing, etc.

WATER

There has been complete co-operation between Mr. Lea, the Water Engineer, and the Health Department, on all matters appertaining to the water supply, which has maintained its very high standard of purity.

SCABIES AND TYPHUS.

Very important developments have taken place regarding the diagnosis and control of these two diseases, and it is imperative that an effective disinfecting plant should be at our disposal at all times. Our present plant, which was constructed at the Council's Refuse Destructor, is now out of commission, as steam cannot be obtained because combustible refuse, is being salvaged. All articles to be disinfected are now being sent to a neighbouring Authority at considerable expense.

A scheme has been considered by the Public Health Committee, and no doubt suitable arrangements will be made at an early date.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the help which has been accorded to me by members of the Council, my colleagues, the general practitioners and the public, as it is only by their assistance that such a high standard of public health administration can be obtained.

I am deeply indebted to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the unstinted support which has been accorded to me throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H.M. AYRES

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	2,695
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	11,490
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	13,510
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population					(1941)	21,260
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	2,237
Number of inhabited houses (1941)	...	...	...	...	...	7,269
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)						2,525
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931)						3,239
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£309,262
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£950

2. Social Conditions and Occupations.

The district is a residential one and essentially a seaside health resort. There are no large factories, and there are no occupations which have a definite prejudicial effect on health.

3. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.Births -

		Ttl:Malos	Fem:	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population mid 1941...
<u>Live Births -</u>				..... 12.7
	Legitimate	248 127	121	
	Illegitimate	21 8	13	
		269 135	134	
<u>Still Births -</u>				Rate per 1000 total (live & still births) births... 62.7
	Legitimate	18 9	9	
	Illegitimate	- -	-	
		18 9	9	

Deaths -

345 165	180	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated average population .. 16.23
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Total number of deaths occurring in Public Institutions.....98
(percentage of total deaths 28).

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth

From sepsis... .. 0

From other causes... .. 0

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age 11

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births 40.9

There were 248 legitimate children born and 11 deaths, therefore

the death rate per 1000 is 44.4

There were 21 illegitimate children born and no deaths

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 56

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).. .. 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc, (under two years of age) 0

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	14.2 (14.6)
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	12.9 (14.3)
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	59 (55)

(The figures in brackets represent the rates for the year 1940)

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases were notified during 1941:-

	RESIDENTS													EVACUEES													
	AGES													AGES													
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	TOTAL	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	TOTAL	EVACUEES & RESIDENTS	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	4	2	7	22	6	2	6	1	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	8	60	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
Pneumonia	1	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	1	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	11	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	
Measles	6	19	24	37	24	132	38	8	18	2	1	-	309	6	6	17	17	29	59	3	-	-	-	-	137	446	
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Whooping Cough	12	10	11	20	19	59	4	1	2	2	1	2	143	1	4	7	4	7	12	-	1	-	-	-	36	179	
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	20	31	39	60	112	18	48	14	31	8	6	4	530	7	10	25	21	36	76	6	-	2	-	1	-	184	714

It is gratifying to be able to note that the incidence of infectious disease amongst evacuees compares very favourably with that of residents.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Cont'd)TUBERCULOSIS

Fifty new cases (compared with 26 in 1940) were added to the register during 1941:-

Pulmonary Males	22	Non-pulmonary Males	2
" Females	22	" Females	4
	<u>44</u>		<u>6</u>

There were eighteen deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 17 from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 0.847 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.728 for England and Wales.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at December 31st 1941, was 217 as compared with 197 at December 31st 1940.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

As in previous years, swabs for examination for the presence of K.L.B. or Haemolytic streptococci, and specimens for typhoid bacilli have been submitted to Dr. F. Standish for examination during 1941, both by the Health Department and by general practitioners.

The number of examinations of swabs and specimens submitted was as follows:-

<u>Specimens</u>	<u>No: Submitted for Examination.</u>
(1) Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli.	177
Virulence Tests for Diphtheria	2
(2) Swabs for Scarlet Fever	26
(3) Specimens for Typhoid and paratyphoid Fever.	6
(4) Specimens for Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	2
(5) Other specimens	19
	<u>232</u>

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria is a dangerous infectious disease, mainly affecting children.

Every year about 60,000 children in England and Wales contract diphtheria and some 3,000 of them die of it. Practically all these children should be saved.

There is now a safe and reliable means of preventing this disease, -by inoculation.

Inoculation against diphtheria is carried out by giving two small injections under the skin of the arm, at an interval of three weeks. The injections cause no disturbance to the child, do not produce a sore, and do not leave a scar. It is extremely rare that a child is even slightly unwell as a result of the injections.

The protection does not reach its full strength for several months after the second injection, so that it is useless waiting until an epidemic occurs. Once protected, however, children remain so for many years, and possibly for life.

Diphtheria immunisation is purely voluntary, and completely free of cost. Parents can accept the privilege offered by the Government or not, as they like, but the responsibility of leaving their children unprotected will be entirely theirs.

If parents wish to have their children protected, they should obtain a consent form from the Head Teacher of the elementary school attended by the child, the Health Centre, or from the Health Department, Town Hall, Bognor Regis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN BOGNOR REGIS.

Bognor Regis was early in the field in connection with diphtheria immunisation, the original scheme being started in 1927.

The following are details of children who have been immunised against diphtheria.

YEAR	AGES														14 & over	TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1927	-	1	1	-	7	4	7	11	10	9	9	8	6	1	74	
1936-7	22	31	32	53	75	95	85	115	107	94	60	40	31	8	848	
1938	1	3	2	4	13	20	8	5	7	6	8	14	5	4	100	
1940	-	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	
1941	33	150	125	119	170	189	207	196	191	179	176	130	146	149	2160	
1942 (to 30th June)	Under 5					Over 5										
	127					91									218	
Total ..															3416	

It is estimated that up to June 1942, 49% of children under 5 in Bognor Regis had been immunised, and 78% of children between the ages of 5 and 15.

As far as can be ascertained, not a single clinical case of diphtheria has occurred amongst these children, whilst during 1941, only two cases of diphtheria occurred in the area, and, of these, one only was a child (aged 2 years) and this child had not been immunised.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during 1941:-

Scarlet Fever ...	...	61
Diphtheria ...	...	11
Chicken-pox ...	...	2
Encephalitis ...	...	1
Whooping Cough ..	...	10
Erysipelas ...	...	3
Menigitis ...	...	2
Mumps ...	...	9
Pneumonia ...	...	2
Measles ...	...	29
Infantile) Paralysis)	...	2
Anterior poliomyelitis..		1
Typhoid Fever ...	...	1
Paratyphoid fever ...	...	2
Observation ...	...	26
		162

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

(1) TUBERCULOSIS

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds), whilst surgical cases are admitted to St. Richards Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate, or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants (for children).

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL (Cont'd)(2) LATERNITY

The County Council arranged for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to:-

- (a) Brighton Hospital for Women.
- (b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.
- (c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home.
- (d) Improvised Maternity Homes at Haselmore, Hindhead and Woking.

(3) CHILDREN.

The County Council arranges whenever necessary for the admission of children under the age of 12 months to the Alexandra Hospital for Children, Brighton. No cases were received there during the year from this area.

(4) SMALLPOX.

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Small-Pox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(5) GENERAL.

St. Richard's Hospital Chichester, has an accommodation of 144 beds which are available for general cases.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY
OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS
RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

- (1) Bognor Regis War Memorial Hospital (27 beds).
- (2) Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester (334 beds).

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

- (a) For infectious cases, the Local Authority possesses a modern motor ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, the Local Authority has a modern motor ambulance staffed by a whole-time driver-mechanic and volunteers from the local St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Detachments. During the year the mileage covered on non-infectious and accident cases, was 9,417, and the cases conveyed were as follows:-

Accident Cases	...	...	35
Medical Cases	...	...	482
			<u>517</u>

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.A. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE

Arrangements are unchanged from the previous year.

Special ante-natal Clinics have been conducted at weekly intervals for resident and evacuated expectant mothers.

B. SCHOOL CLINICS

School Clinics have been held as during the previous year and the service has been extended to evacuee school-children.

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES (Cont'd)C. NUTRITION CLINICS

These have been conducted as during the previous year.

Evacuee school children are inspected, and, if necessary provided with extra milk or malt and oil.

D. TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS

These have been held at the Chapel Street Clinic, Chichester, as previously.

E. VENEREAL DISEASES

The County Council's arrangements for clinics to be held at Worthing and Portsmouth are unchanged.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Bognor Regis District Nursing Association employs five nurses, three of whom carry out general district nursing.

The West Sussex County Council makes a grant to the County Nursing Association for nursing services in connection with child welfare and home visiting of cases of tuberculosis.

Two other nurses under the direct supervision of the County Nursing Association, attend the Minor Ailments and Nutrition Clinics and carry out duties in connection with the School Medical Service.

BOGNOR REGIS AND DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CARE FUND.

The Children's Care Fund was inaugurated in 1932 to assist necessitous cases among the children living in Bognor Regis and is entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

Its assistance in such cases has been continued in 1941, and, in certain circumstances, has been extended to evacuees.

There is, at the present time, a considerable number of necessitous cases in the town, the reason for this being the higher cost of living and other circumstances.

Under the Boot Club Scheme, any children may obtain boots or have them repaired, and there is no need for any of the local children to be without footwear.

Arrangements have also been made to supply clothing, and gifts of second-hand articles are urgently required.

WATER

Details of the water undertaking have not been included in this Report, but the Water Engineer has submitted a separate report to the Council giving details of the precautions which have been taken to cover all emergencies.

HOUSING.

The important work on housing has continued, and 998 visits have been made, notwithstanding the large amount of extra work the Sanitary Inspectors have been called upon to carry out. The details of this work are omitted from this Report but are always available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and ice-cream sampling has been carried out as in previous years, and visits have been paid to cowsheds, dairies, bakohouses, stores and places where food is prepared and sold. Details of the foregoing inspections are available.

Inspection of carcasses slaughtered locally was carried out until January, 1940, when local slaughtering ceased. Meat inspection at butchers' shops continued, however, to be carried out.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & SHOPS ACT 1934

Visits have been paid in accordance with the scope of these Acts.

RATS AND MICE.

Many visits have been paid to premises in connection with rats and mice, advice given, and appropriate action taken.

MISCELLANEOUS NUISANCES.

All complaints have been investigated, and where necessary, action has been taken.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme, providing for main drainage facilities and the abolition of cesspits in the added areas was completed early in 1940. Some progress was made with cesspit abolition, 11 cesspits being abolished during the year. At the 31st December 1941, there were 639 cesspits in the area.

It is a matter for regret that the making up and sewerage of private streets which had been prepared for, had to be postponed.

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